

The media in a democratic nation is the foundation of it's success as a true democracy. It creates and alters public opinion, and in turn alters the democratic process. Because of this media consolidation can prove to make a large impact on the democratic process, and when the decisions made by these corporations are made to benifit the few in charge instead of the public, their actions could indeed undermine the democratic process.

A perfect example of this was just recently demonstrated by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.